

A new variety of *Pentanema indicum* (L.) Ling (Asteraceae) from Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Pentanema indicum (L.) Ling var. *sivarajanianum*, a new variety belonging to Asteraceae is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

Pentanema Cassini, mostly a subtropical genus of about 10 species (Merxmuller *et al.*, 1977), is represented in India by three species (Rao *et al.*, 1988). During studies on Asteraceae of Andhra Pradesh, some interesting specimens were collected from Ahobilam hills in Kurnool district. One of them was recognised as a new variety of *P.indicum* (L.) Ling, and is described and illustrated here.

***Pentanema indicum* (L.) Ling var. *sivarajanianum* Venkata Raju *et* Prabhakar Raju, var. nov.(Fig.1)**

Affinis typo *Pentanema indicum* (L.) Ling, differt a folia ad basim subsessilia vel oblongo elliptica, cuneata, obtusa ad basim vel truncata et margine distincto serratibus.

Type: India, Andhra Pradesh, Upper Ahobilam, 24 December 1993, *Prabhakar Raju & Venkataraju 13218* (Holo - SKU; Iso - MH).

Erect herbs to 1 m tall; stem terete, sparsely puberulous, mixed with glands when young, glabrous towards base, usually unbranched. Leaves simple, alternate; upper leaves sessile, lower subsessile, petiole 1-2 mm long with lamina elliptic, oblong-elliptic or the uppermost lanceolate, 2-12 x 0.5 cm, base truncate or cuneate in lower leaves, amplexicaul, obtusely auricled in upper ones, faintly serrate, apex

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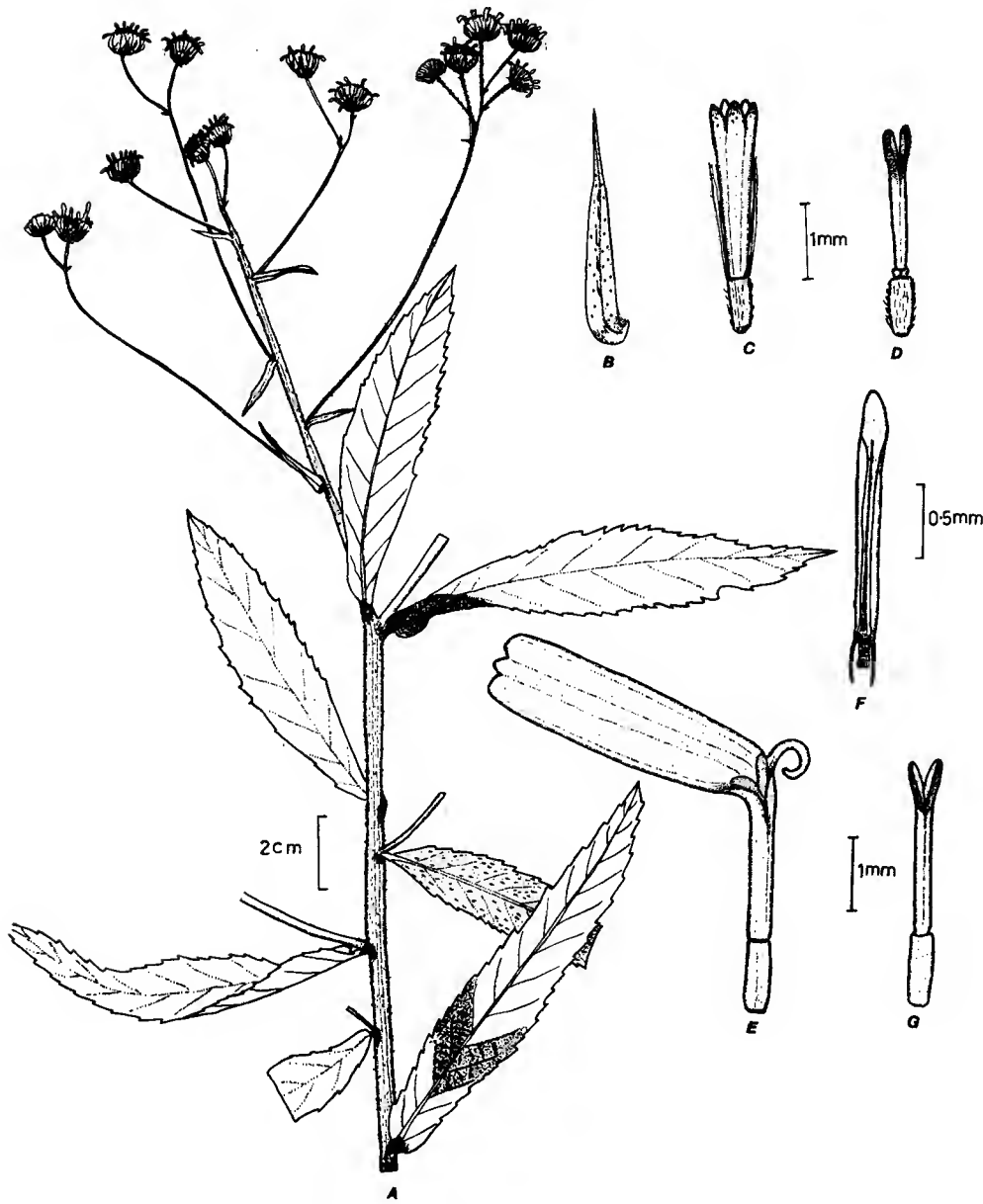


Fig. 1. *Pentanema indicum* (L.) Ling var. *sivarajanianum*. A. Twig; B. Involucral bract; C. Bisexual floret; D. Bisexual floret - corolla removed showing style; E. Ray floret; F. Anther. G. Ray floret - corolla removed showing style.

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acute to acuminate; veins raised on lower surface; scabrid on upper surface, powdery tomentose and glandular below. Heads few, paniculate, terminal on upper axillary branches, heterogamous, rayed, yellow, 1.5-2 cm across (including rays); peduncles to 4 cm long, puberulous. Involucral bracts 3-4-seriate, unequal, equalling or slightly exceeding the bisexual florets, outer linear-lanceolate, gradually acuminate, 2-2.5 mm long, green, pilose and glandular on dorsal surface; innermost linear-lanceolate, acuminate, 3-4 mm long, scarious, glandular and pilose along vein. Receptacle convex, 3-3.5 mm across, fimbriate. Ray florets 25-30, 7 mm long, tube 2 mm long, glabrous; ligule 2-lipped, ventral one very small, recurved, dorsal one spreading, oblong or narrowly elliptic-oblong, 5 mm long, 3-lobed, middle one smaller, acute, 1 mm long, glabrous, obtuse. Bisexual florets around 150, corolla 3 mm long, tube glabrous, 5-lobed, lobes ovate, acute, glandular on dorsal side. Stamens 5, anthers linear, 2 mm long, hood ovate, obtuse, base sagittately auricled, auricles tailed, tails longer than thickened part. Style to 2 mm long, branches linear, sub-glabrous to hispid, obtuse. Pappus uniseriate, 1.5 mm long, white, setaceous hairs in bisexual florets, absent in ray florets. Achenes to 1 mm, glabrous in ray florets, hairy and striated in bisexual ones.

Flowering and fruiting: November - March.

Habitat : Open forests at high elevations.

Etymology: The taxon is named after Late Prof.V.V.Sivarajan, for his eminence in the field of plant taxonomy.

An artificial key is provided for easy identification and to distinguish the new variety from *P. indicum* var. *indicum*.

1. Leaves sessile, base auricled, margin serrulate.....var. *indicum*
1. Leaves subsessile, lower ones petiolate, base truncate to cordate, margin serratevar. *sivarajanianum*

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R.R.Venkata Raju and C.Prabhakar Raju**Literature cited**

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